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GEARING UP FOR CANADA GAMES
HOW TO MAXIMIZE THE BIG WEEK {pages 18-20}



FAITH
KIDMAN TALKS ABOUT HER NEW BABY {page 11}



HALIFAX metro®
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Hoops. Posted up



▶ Saint Mary's forward Riley Halpin goes up for a shot over Dalhousie Tigers forward Robert Nortmann during the first half of last night's AUS game at the Tower. The Huskies knocked off the Tigers 84-80. Story, page 21.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Dogs prevail over cats in AUS action

Developer: Delay not sitting well

▶ Waterside Centre is set to be boarded up, claims Ben McCrea ▶ Construction site's condition could result in fine for unsightly premises: Coun. Dawn Sloane



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

The Waterside Centre overcame many hurdles before being approved but now it's stalled by bureaucracy.

The project, a six-storey glass office building perched atop three storeys of heritage buildings on Lower Water Street, won approval from the utility and review board in 2009 after council voted it down in 2008.

Some work has been done on the site, but developer Ben McCrea said he's been waiting over eight months for municipal paperwork to go through.

"It shows you how anxious they are to see something happen, doesn't it?" said McCrea.

He said the delay is costing him: There are taxes to pay and site maintenance.

"We're gearing up to board the buildings back up," McCrea said.

"We've got an eyesore down there right now. With all the windows out, it looks atrocious, and I'm discouraged with all this."

He applied for an easement and an encroachment because piping is needed to go under Lower Water Street and Historic Properties to get to the harbour. The building will use ocean water for heating and cooling.

"It can (take this long). It depends what the nature of it is and what the developer is looking for. We often get applications for encroachments, but they're as individual as the projects."
SHAUNE MACKINLAY, HRM SPOKESWOMAN

"Our staff is working with the developer, and ultimately this has to go to council," said Shaune MacKinlay, HRM spokeswoman. "We're looking at trying to get something to council early next month."

Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane said she doesn't think council will refuse the request out of spite. But she said she's disappointed McCrea doesn't want to share the pipe with any other downtown buildings.

"You lose a war, you lose a war," she said, adding the site looks like a bombed-out building and has been defaced with graffiti.

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1 news

News on the move

On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands of officers march at funeral for Sgt. Ryan Russell, who died while trying to stop a stolen snowplow in Toronto. Video at metronews.ca

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When fists fly, not all participants at a pub brawl are willing. Scan the code for the story.

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E-tickets, more LED lights coming

Electronic ticketing devices and more LED streetlights are on the way.

HRM is sharing the cost with the province on electronic ticketing devices, which will be installed in Halifax Regional Police and RCMP vehicles.

Currently, the tickets are written out by hand, which leads to illegible scrawl and human errors.

The devices will reduce overtime and increase "officer productivity," according to the staff report.

Federal funding

- Staff said they needed council to commit funds for more LED lights so they can apply for federal sustainability funding for the pilot project.

The province and the HRM are chipping in $350,000 each.

Coun. Jerry Blumenthal said he is worried officers will hand out more tickets to offset the cost.

But Cathie O'Toole, director of finance, was quick to explain there will be some more tickets handed out because there will be greater efficiency, but not to cover the costs of the devices.

She said time saved by police and clerks keying in the tickets will save between $400,000 to $1.1 million a year.

HRM is also hoping to save on energy costs by installing 2,400 more LED lights as part of a second phase of a pilot project already underway.

It will cost $300,000.

Several councillors brought forward concerns from residents that the LED lights, especially on Lacewood Drive, aren't bright enough.

"Residents describe them as a narrow beam of light like a flashlight," said Coun. Mary Wile, who added some of her constituents have complained that bus stops aren't lit well enough.

And there are many complaints that Nova Scotia Power doesn't replace the lights it is responsible for in a timely manor.

Angus Doyle, manager of utilities co-ordination, said NSP has committed to increasing its service levels. JENNIFER TAPLIN

Have your say online at halifaxletters @metronews.ca

Accused in murder back in court Feb. 15

Steven Laffin remains in custody at Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside

The man accused of killing Nadine Taylor is having difficulty finding legal representation.

Steven Elliot Laffin, 36, said in Dartmouth provincial court yesterday he has left several messages with Legal Aid lawyers, but has yet to secure counsel.

Laffin is charged with second-degree murder in Taylor's death. The 29-year-old sex worker was reported missing July 31.

Her body has not yet been found, and police say they don't believe it ever will be. They won't elaborate any further.

Laffin was escorted by sheriffs into a Dartmouth provincial courtroom yesterday for arraignment. He requested adjournment in the matter until he has retained a lawyer.

Outside the courtroom,


▶ Taylor

Crown attorney Susan MacKay said she hopes Laffin is able to retain counsel as soon as possible.

"That will help to move the matter along further. We'd like to have it done as expeditiously as possible, however, he has to have a reasonable chance to consult with counsel," she said.

"For the time being, of course, he's in custody. Once he gets counsel and has the ability to get some legal advice, then it will proceed further."

MacKay said it may be possible to set the date for a preliminary hearing when Laffin returns to court next month. ALEX BOUTILIER

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS


▶ Steven Elliot Laffin arrives at court yesterday in Dartmouth.

Council to hold public hearing

It wasn't a unanimous vote, but Halifax regional council decided to hold a public hearing on a controversial development on Willow Street in Halifax.

The St. John's United Church wants to build a seven-storey complex called Spirit Place, which would include affordable housing and new sanctuary and administration space for the church.

Coun. Dawn Sloane said she has seen two petitions on the matter: One with about 700 names in support of the project; and another with about 200 names opposing it.

There are also concerns regarding the height of the building and parking.

"The only way we can proceed is to move forward and have a public meeting," said Coun. Debbie Hum. JENNIFER TAPLIN

Site details

As proposed, Spirit Place would have:

- Church space.
- Community program space.
- Sixty-five units, half of which would be affordable housing.
- One level of underground parking containing 41 spaces.

News in brief

Chisholm to run for MP

POLITICS. Party sources have confirmed that Robert Chisholm, the former Nova Scotia NDP leader, will run for a seat in the next federal election.

Chisholm is expected to be unopposed next week for the nomination in Dartmouth-Cole Harbour. The seat is held by Liberal Mike Savage. Chisholm served in the legislature from 1991 until 2003 and was provincial party leader from 1996-99.

A veteran trade unionist, he worked as a researcher with the Canadian Union of Public Employees for several years after leaving politics. He and his wife then started their own consulting firm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Students at Dalhousie University in a file photo from last year.

Study: Student debt rises as jobs for grads decline

- Students rely mostly on government and bank loans
- Liberal arts and science grads likely to study further

JORDAN MINX
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Post-secondary students are taking on more debt and have less chance of finding employment in their field when they graduate, a new survey suggests.

The survey released yesterday by the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission shows nine per cent less employment for students coming out of post secondary institutions.

Big borrowers

What students were borrowing by 2009:

- **44 per cent** up to **$30,000**
- **23 per cent** between **$30,000** to **$45,000**
- **33 per cent** more than **$45,000**

In 2003, when the survey was last conducted, 95 per cent of students became employed in their field of study. Now, that figure is 86 per cent.

"This is where it has changed," said Mireille Duguay, chief executive officer with MPHEC. "Perhaps because the economy is not as inviting as it was a few years ago."

Duguay said because of the economic downturn the past few years, some students have only added to their debt level by going back to school because they can't find employment after graduation.

Focus on solutions, not posturing: Expert

Charles Cirtwell says the recent posturing from the NDP, the opposition, and school boards concerning cuts to public education has been disappointing — if predictable.

"When you use the word 'cuts,' everybody gets into their trenches and starts throwing things back and forth and you don't get anything done," said the president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, a right-of-centre think tank based in Halifax. "All you do is agitate people, put people in a panic situation, and waste money."

The problem, for all sides, is how best to deliver education to students when enrolment is decreasing, the cost of education is increasing, and the province is broke.

Spend to save

- Charles Cirtwell suggests actually expanding education funding in the short term — for things like buyouts, early retirement, and IT investment — to save money in the long term.
- "You can't just eliminate all of the excess schools, all of the excess capacity we have, without some upfront costs," he says.

Cirtwell said instead of focusing on solutions to this problem, the discussion has devolved into, "How many are you going to cut, how many are going to leave, and what happens to those people who are laid off."

"You should be terrified," he said.

Cirtwell said what parents want is relatively simple — to be assured their children will receive a high-quality education that prepares them to enter the world.

"And instead of talking to them about that — demonstrating to them that we can deliver that without having the need to have a 200-person school in every community with 500 people — we get into this exercise where it's all about protecting the structure that existed when we were in school, when everything else in our lives has fundamentally changed. So why is education exempt?"

ALEX BOUTILIER

Rear-ender sends cops to hospital

Three Cape Breton police officers were injured yesterday around noon when their car was rear-ended in New Waterford.

Police say the officers were sitting in an unmarked car, waiting to turn into a driveway when they were hit from behind by a half-tonne truck.

In total, there were three vehicles involved in the accident, with substantial damage to each.

The officers were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

All have been treated and released.

Police are investigating.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM CAPE BRETON POST

Robie Street Subway shop robbed

Police say two people — one armed with a hand gun — robbed the Subway restaurant on Robie Street late Monday night.

Halifax Regional Police say the robbery took place around 11:40 p.m. The men allegedly entered the store, and demanded cash from staff, as one suspect held out a gun.

Police say the two men then fled the area with an unknown amount of money.

Both men were said to be wearing black hoodies, black ski masks and black gloves during the robbery.

The were no injuries.

METRO

Sloan, Mays, Plaskett to play Games

Joel Plaskett, Sloan and Matt Mays are amongst the performers who will take to the stage at Celebration Square at Night during next month's Canada Winter Games in Halifax.

The Week 1 lineup for the free shows at Grand Parade was announced yesterday and it sees Plaskett headlining on Feb. 14, Sloan on Feb. 15 and Mays on Feb. 17.

On Feb. 16, Hey Rosetta! will be the featured act, followed two nights later by Hawksley Workman.

All shows begin at 7 p.m. The Week 2 lineup will be announced next week.

METRO



A novel idea goes awry in Neptune play

Show described as having 'unexpected and hilarious outcome' Directed by George Pothitos, Neptune's artistic director Blithe Spirit opens Friday

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶Marla McLean and Ivan Sherry rehearse a scene from Neptune's Theatre's Blithe Spirit yesterday. Blithe Spirit runs until Feb. 13 at Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall. Visit neptunetheatre.com for ticket prices and show times.

JORDAN MINX
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Marla McLean isn't just an actor in Neptune Theatre's latest production, Blithe Spirit. She's also a very big fan of the play.

"It's a really lovely comedy," McLean, who plays the role of a ghost named Elvira, said. "You'll have some good laughs, there's some fabulous costumes and designs and it's worth a trip out."

The play by British playwright Noël Coward tells the story of novelist Charles Condomine, who decides to conduct a séance in hope of gathering material for his next book, but has no idea the scheme will backfire.

Instead of getting what he hoped for, he gets a visit from his annoying and temperamental first wife Elvira, who died seven years ago.

She begins to wreak havoc on the house, as only Charles — who is now remarried — can see her.

"It's one of his (Coward's) lighter comedies and I'm really happy to be a part of it," said McLean, who has performed in several shows at Neptune, including Jesus Christ Superstar.

"It's a great play and a really great cast of people."

The spooky comedy is meant to playfully mock the traditions of love, marriage and the concept of death, which served as a perfect defence against the harsh reality England faced during the Second World War, when the play was written.

The play was first produced at the Manchester Opera House in June 1941.

WORKERS COMP

Privacy complaint probed

Nova Scotia's privacy review officer says she will investigate reports that personal information at the Workers Compensation Board may have been sent to the wrong people.

Dulcie McCallum says her probe was sparked by recent reports that workers who had dealings with the board had received someone else's personal information in the mail.

She says this raises important privacy issues for people with claims at the compensation board.

McCallum says the board files contain a lot of personal details including health information, but added the board has indicated a willingness to co-operate in the investigation.

McCallum says she usually issues a public report at the conclusion of her investigations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

P.E.I. man charged with murder

A 22-year-old man has been charged with second-degree murder of his brother and will appear Jan. 24 for a show cause hearing after a shooting in Charlottetown on Monday.

Dylan Dingwell made a brief appearance before a justice of the peace in Prince Edward Island provincial court yesterday where he was charged with second-degree murder.

Charlottetown police deputy chief Gary McGuigan said the victim died shortly after midnight.

The victim, Kyle Dingwell, 25, suffered at least one gunshot wound at approximately 11 a.m. Monday.

McGuigan said a handgun was seized at the scene of the shooting. Police are still trying to determine the origin of the weapon. CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

An argument

Police say the shooting appears to be the result of an altercation or argument between the two brothers.

News in brief

Max and Ruby take to stage

Tickets go on sale this Friday at noon for children favourites Max and Ruby, who will be performing at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Sunday, March 20.

Max and Ruby: Bunny Party is a theatrical production put on by Koba Entertainment, who have also produced shows for the The Backyardigans.

Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 on the day of the show, plus service charges. Tickets are available through the Dalhousie Arts Centre box office. METRO

Weed species colonizing

Authorities have enlisted the help of researchers from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in the fight against an invasive weed species that's colonizing the Antigonish Landing.

The Department of Transportation is trying to restore wetlands along the landing to offset the loss of wetlands caused by the twinning of Highway 104.

Researchers from the college were asked to help fight the spread of Japanese knotweed as part of those efforts.

The knotweed — a tall, hollow-stemmed, bamboo-like plant is currently spreading along both sides of Wright's River. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police probing suspicious fire

Police in Cape Breton say they're investigating a suspicious fire in Sydney at a two-storey apartment building.

Police say there was no one inside the wooden structure at 82 Rockdale Ave. when the fire broke out Monday afternoon.

The blaze caused extensive damage.

Police say a demolition company was later called in to tear the building down. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen stabbed at school

A Nova Scotia teen has been arrested following an alleged stabbing at a school in Bridgewater.

The mother of a 15-year-old boy contacted police to say her son was stabbed Monday in the leg at Bridgewater Junior Senior High School.

Officers arrested a 15-year-old boy yesterday and charged him with assault with a weapon and possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace.

He was released on an undertaking with an order to return to youth court Jan. 26. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds call for inquiry into alleged rape

Tourist claims she was sexually assaulted by Mexican police officers
Local authorities dispute her story

Ottawa is asking the Mexican government to "get to the bottom" of allegations a Canadian tourist was gang-raped and robbed by Mexican police on New Year's Eve.

"We have asked the Mexican ambassador not only to look at (this case) but we've asked him to set an inquiry in place," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday.

Rebecca Rutland, 41, told the CBC she was vacationing in Playa del Carmen when a confrontation broke out between Mexican officers and her fiancé, Richard Coleman, 51. Rutland said she was taken to the police station and raped by two officers while a supervisor looked on.

Coleman said he learned about Rutland's alleged rape from fellow inmates and then tried to kill himself, hoping the act would draw attention to his partner's plight.

Mexican authorities said yesterday that Rutland and Coleman were intoxicated and "started a fight and attacked each other." They hit a car whose driver requested the assistance of the police, the Embassy of Mexico in Canada said.

Rutland filed a complaint at the district attorney's office after her release from jail and a formal investigation "immediately began," the embassy said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Religious. Ritual



▶ Russian believers lower a young girl into ice cold water to mark the upcoming Epiphany in northwestern Moscow, yesterday.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chilly devotion

Thousands of Russian Orthodox Church followers plunged yesterday into icy rivers and ponds across the country to mark the upcoming Epiphany, cleansing themselves with water deemed holy for the day.

The two best ways to treat a hangover

New research claims all you really need to cure a hangover is a cup of coffee and aspirin — at least if you're a rat with a soft spot for ethanol.

Professor Michael Oshinsky, of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, induced headaches in rodents by injecting them with ethanol. Ethanol, like many bar drinks, produces acetate in the body when it is metabolized, and it is here, he believes, where the cause of our post-drink head pain resides.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rats feel our pain

Professor Michael Oshinsky insists that none of the commonly cited causes of hangovers could have caused the headaches in his lab rats.

- **The rats** were injected with ethanol, so they were not dehydrated.
- **The pure alcohol** used was also free of the toxins and additives often blamed for hangovers brought on by mass-produced booze.

Letter told priests to stay mum on child abuse

A newly revealed 1997 letter from the Vatican warned Ireland's Catholic bishops not to report all suspected child-abuse cases to police — a disclosure that victims groups described as "the smoking gun" needed to show that the Vatican enforced a worldwide culture of coverup. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1.5B Irish taxpayers, not the Vatican, have paid most of the $1.5 billion to more than 14,000 abuse claimants dating back to the 1940s.

Sikhs with daggers can't come in: Officials

Several Sikhs were denied entry into the Quebec legislature yesterday amid a heated debate over multiculturalism and where to draw the line when it comes to tolerating cultural practices.

Security officials at the Assemblée Nationale refused to let them in because they were wearing kirpans, small stylized daggers worn by some religious Sikhs.

Four representatives from the World Sikh Organization of Canada had planned to attend public hearings but were told by security to leave their daggers at the door if they wanted to enter. They refused.

The provincial government reacted with cautious language to the decision. The opposition Parti Québécois, meanwhile, applauded heartily and said Canadian-style multiculturalism was unwelcome in Quebec.

The timing of the incident was laden with symbolism as the subject of the hearings was accommodating immigrants.

The visitors had planned to attend legislative hearings into a bill that would set some limits on religious practices — namely, denying government services to Muslim women with covered faces.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ A kirpan

The Sikhs said that, while their own religion forbids covering women's faces, they planned to speak out against the bill anyway, in the name of religious tolerance.

The Sikhs noted that legislatures in other provinces and in Ottawa had, unlike Quebec, allowed entry to Sikhs with kirpans — as had last year's Vancouver Olympic venues, despite heavy security at the Games.

"The national assembly has no written rules or policies regarding the kirpan, and we can't even find out who is making the decision to exclude us," said Balpreet Singh, the World Sikh Organization's legal counsel.

"Freedom of religion may be enshrined in Canada's Charter, but that's meaningless unless we all stand up to protect the rights of religious minorities — especially when we disagree with their beliefs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raging debate

The so-called reasonable accommodations debate in Quebec has often focused on Muslim women's face-coverings.

- **But the current debate** arguably began years ago with controversy over a boy who wasn't allowed to wear his kirpan at school.
- **The Supreme Court of Canada** ruled that a total kirpan ban in schools violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

National alcohol plan needed, say doctors

A national strategy is needed to control overall alcohol use in Canada, particularly heavy drinking or binge drinking, says an editorial Monday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

It says taxpayers are feeling the burden of heavy alcohol use and simple evidence-informed regulations and policies are worth considering.

"Public health agencies, the hospitality industry, liquor manufacturers and control boards, municipalities and major granting agencies should collectively turn their attention to evaluate strategies to curb binge drinking," states the editorial, signed by doctors Ken Flegel, Noni MacDonald and Paul Hebert.

They question whether "happy hours" do anything more than promote risky behaviour among students and the socially disadvantaged. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New limits set for chemicals in toys

The federal government is restricting the use of certain chemicals used to make toys and child-care articles soft and squishy.

The new regulations restrict the use of six compounds known as phthalates in toys and items such as bibs and sippy cups.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq says there are concerns the chemicals can leach out of certain items that may be chewed or sucked over long periods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Leona Aglukkaq

Marry gay couples or lose your job: Province

The Saskatchewan government says "no" is not an option for marriage commissioners who are unwilling to wed same-sex couples.

At least one commissioner says the province will have to fire him if that's the case.

Justice Minister Don Morgan says marriage commissioners are getting letters informing them about a decision by the province's top court.

The Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled last week that religious beliefs cannot be used as a reason to refuse to marry same-sex couples.

Morgan says the commissioners must follow the ruling or lose their job.

There are just under 400 marriage commissioners in Saskatchewan.

Three or four have already said they may quit over the ruling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What title will the Queen give to Kate?

Monarchy mum on title Royal experts await word

If you're invited to the royal wedding, don't go buying Kate Middleton an engraved gift — the poor woman doesn't know yet what her title's going to be.

She will be a princess, possibly a duchess, perhaps even a countess. But the exact title is unlikely to be divulged until shortly before April 29, the day she officially joins "the firm" — as the Royal Family is known.

Most women face a straightforward choice when they prepare to walk down the aisle: Take their husband's name, keep their own, or combine the two with a hyphen. But Middleton's title, which will dictate what she is called, will be determined by the Queen, not Middleton herself.

BEN STANSALL/ GETTY IMAGE



▶ A souvenir key ring.

Royal experts say it is possible Middleton could end up with the formal name Her Royal Highness Princess William of Wales.

The dilemma arises in part because William has not yet become the Prince of Wales — a title that traditionally goes to the heir to the throne — and does not hold a formal position, like the Duke of Cambridge, that could be automatically bestowed on Middleton, making her the Duchess of the same place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest. Washington



▶ Tibetan supporters shout slogans yesterday outside the White House.

JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Security, trade, rights at stake

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Washington D.C. yesterday for a delicate state visit. U.S. President Barack Obama prepared to welcome him with a careful mix of firmness and warmth: Tensions over currency and trade policies, a search for common ground on national security, and U.S. finger wagging over Chinese internal governance and human rights will dominate the visit.

Dozens killed in Iraq blast

A suicide bomber killed 52 people among a crowd of police recruits in Saddam Hussein's hometown yesterday, ending a two-month lull and spurring calls to keep the U.S. military in Iraq beyond 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parents of toking tot arrested

A Southern California couple has been arrested for allegedly having their toddler smoke a marijuana pipe. Police said the 23-month-old son smoked the pot on an unreleased video.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds under gag order for life

Newly obtained records show more than 12,000 current and former federal intelligence officials must take the secrets of their most sensitive work to the grave, as debate rages over WikiLeaks releases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Economy better, but no hike in interest rates

Bank of Canada warned credit market has become overheated Concern about loonie at parity with U.S. dollar

The Bank of Canada says the economic recovery has gathered strength both at home and abroad, but not enough to encourage it to start raising interest rates from their current ultra-low levels.

The central bank kept its trendsetting overnight rate at one per cent yesterday, the third time it has done so since September — and gave no clear indication as to when it might start tightening again.

The bank did say the recovery is proceeding at a faster pace than it anticipated, particularly the U.S., but cited ongoing risks, including sovereign debt difficulties in Europe and weak finances of international banks. It upgraded Canada's economic growth forecast to 2.4 per cent this year and 2.8 per cent next, slightly better than its last projection in October.

But economists had expected an even bigger revision, given that commodity prices had rebounded and the U.S. appears set for a much stronger year thanks to new policy initiatives to stimulate growth.

"It's a little more dovish than we would have expected ... Frankly, their forecast revision from October is modest to say the least," said economist Douglas Porter of BMO Capital Markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inflation

The bank noted that underlying inflation pressures remain subdued and there is still plenty of slack in the economy.

- **Date** Critically, it did not change its target date for when it expects the economy to return to full capacity from the end of 2012.
- **Bubble** On Monday, the federal government gave it more leeway by tightening borrowing conditions in the housing market, easing concerns that super-low rates could trigger a housing bubble.

Doll. Fight



▶ This file product image shows part of the 2010 collection of Bratz dolls.

MGA ENTERTAINMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battle of the Bratz dolls

Toy giant Mattel Inc. and bitter rival MGA Entertainment Inc. are back in court in their years-long legal battle to determine who owns the right to make and market Bratz dolls.

Target faces lawsuit

Fairweather Ltd. has filed a lawsuit against U.S. discount retailer Target over the right to use the name in Canada, which the U.S. company says won't hinder its Canadian debut. Fairweather said it is seeking up to $250 million in damages for alleged trademark infringement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	DOLLAR
+ 119.09 (13,559.20)	– 0.58¢ (100.72¢ US)

OIL	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
– 16¢ US ($91.38 US)	$4.422 (– 5.8¢)

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6 Far East Movement ft Ryan Tedder - Rocketeer
5 Chris Brown -Yeah 3x
4 Enrique Iglesias ft Ludacris - Tonight
3 The Black Eyed Peas - The Time (Dirty Bit)
2 Diddy-Dirty $$ ft Skylar Grey - Coming Home
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PRACTISE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man.

I mean, he has his own holiday, observed across the U.S. this past Monday. Anyone responsible for a long weekend is great by definition.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a giant in the field of human rights, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a great orator.

I really admire King, but he's kind of hard to live up to.

For example, he said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." He wrote that from a jail in Birmingham, Ala., into which he was thrown for non-violent protest on behalf of African-American rights.

He also said: "I submit to you that if a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

I wonder how many of us woke up this morning dedicated to that idea.

Then there is: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

Sometimes I wish King had less to say.

I guess the beginning of a new year is always a good time to review what you're willing to die for or what you're doing for others, instead of the usual guff about diet and exercise.

I'll get back to you on the first one.

As for the second one, I could argue that this column is one thing I'm doing for others, but others could (and do) argue that it's one thing I'm doing TO others.

"'We believe that being kind to one another is fundamental to making the world a better place.'"

Actually, I found the quote about life's most persistent and urgent question on a website called People United, a little outfit in Canterbury, England, which is exclusively dedicated to something called kindness: "We believe that being kind to one another is fundamental to making the world a better place."

As mission statements go, it's hard to dispute. Kindness, apparently, "grows trust, friendship, and a common sense of community." A lack of kindness "breeds intolerance, injustice and inhumanity," all stuff King did not approve of.

It's something we can all do. A little kindness won't, um, kill us.

People United's recipe for kindness: "From a neighbourly smile and a helping hand to ongoing ethical conduct and active altruism, kindness is demonstrated in many different ways."

Don't forget to stir frequently.

Today, I'm following Step 1: The "neighbourly smile." It's a long way from "active altruism," but I need to start somewhere.

Hey, Dr. King! I have a dream, too … of sorts.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



'Choose a job you love'

Letters & Tweets

We asked: How would you describe your dream job?

@everlastinglife: One word: Mythbuster.

@oceaneclipse: surfboard tester living in the tropics. Oh wait, that's what I actually do!!!

@Phanyxx: Awesomeness Consultant. For the corporation that's evaluated everything else.

@sarahleec: Confucius: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

@WhatsForLunchBC: international restaurant and cocktail critic, preferably for an airline magazine.

@mrslprime: Librarian!

@nicolb: Professional vacation critic.

@kmyles: 10% work, 90% pay. #dreamjob.

@Maxspeedca: To become a filmmaker and make other peoples dreams come true.

@sagalali: my dream job would be one I'd do for free (but get paid to do it anyway).

@timothyhc: Something that combines my passion with my professional experience/training — my current job!!!

Surf's up

GETTY IMAGES



Who was your role model growing up?

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Advertising: 902-421-5824 • halifax_advertising@metronews.ca • halifax_distribution@metronews.ca
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Metro Minute with Classic Albums Live

It's not The Who, but who really cares.

Classic Albums Live is presenting The Who today at Casino Nova Scotia's The Schooner Room at 8 p.m.

Classic Albums Live takes classic albums and performs them live on stage, note for note, cut for cut. It was founded in 2003 by Craig Martin and describes itself as the ultimate destination for music lovers wanting to hear great albums performed live without gimmickry and cheesy impersonations. Expect to hear many of the songs you love from The Who live on stage in Halifax.

Tickets are $32.50, including HST, and are available through Ticket Atlantic. METRO

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Classic Albums Live presents The Who today at Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Room at 8 p.m.

2 scene

Rising stars of 2011

"The Rachel"



There was a time in the mid '90s when women barraged their hair salons with photos of Jennifer Aniston to copy her haircut.

The layered cut was given the name "The Rachel" for Aniston's character Rachel Green on the Friends television series. One person who was not a fan of "The Rachel," however, was Aniston herself.

Aniston tells the February issue of Allure magazine it was not her best look.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

The Pretenders, Faith Hill team for live episode of CMT Crossroads at Super Bowl celebration.

3 MUSICIANS TO WATCH

Metro music reporter Pat Healy on what your 2011 should sound like



Sharon Van Etten

You'll be obsessed with her spooky arrangements, confident melodies and wise words.



Champagne Champagne

A merger of the positive rap of the Native Tongues Posse with stoner soundscapes and funny rhymes.



Men

Their new album is full of the type of dance-pop that is at once rocking, melodic, sinister and fun.

Metro's Heidi Patalano checked in with Movies.com film critic Dave White to find out which film performances are worth seeing

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



ELLE FANNING
Age: 12
Where you've seen her: Somewhere, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
Where you'll see her next: Super 8, We Bought a Zoo
Why she's a rising star: "Elle Fanning, through the first, single-digit years of her life, was in these kind of prestige films, like Babel and indie dramas by cool up-and-coming directors," says White. "She has that same quality as her sister [Dakota] that's 'I'm way older than you think I am.'"



HAILEE STEINFELD
Age: 15
Where you've seen her: True Grit
Where you'll see her next: Maybe at the Oscars?
Why she's a rising star: "She's getting all kinds of talk for Oscar nominations," says White. "She holds her own against Jeff Bridges. She commands that screentime."



GARRETT HEDLUND
Age: 26
Where you've seen him: TRON: Legacy, Country Strong
Where you'll see him next: On the Road
Why he's a rising star: "That dude is going to be Brad Pitt. There's almost nothing stopping him," White says. "[In Country Strong] he plays a young earnest singer/songwriter and he moves and acts just like Brad Pitt in Thelma and Louise — the cowboy hat doesn't hurt."



ANDREW GARFIELD
Age: 27
Where you've seen him: The Social Network, Never Let Me Go
Where you'll see him next: The Spiderman reboot
Why he's a rising star: "He got a lot of attention for The Social Network," says White. "He's got some Oscar nomination talk."



JENNIFER LAWRENCE
Age: 20
Where you've seen her: Winter's Bone
Where you'll see her next: X-Men: First Class, The Beaver
Why she's a rising star: "She commanded every moment of [Winter's Bone]," says White. "She's a serious girl. There's no doubt that she's got a career ahead of her in serious-minded stuff if she wants it."



CHLOE MORETZ
Age: 13
Where you've seen her: Kick-Ass, Let Me In
Where you'll see her next: Hugo Cabret, The Fields
Why she's a rising star: "You have an army of child actors out there and the unusual, striking ones stand out," White says. "Kick-Ass and Let Me In were adult films that were way beyond what a kid would normally be a part of."

Metro television reporter Amber Ray on who to watch out for on your television this year



MIREILLE ENOS
Enos is mesmerizing as the lead homicide detective in the murder investigation of a teenage girl in the new AMC crime thriller The Killing.

EMILIA CLARKE
Clarke plays the pivotal role of exiled princess in HBO's adaptation of George R. R. Martin's epic fantasy novel, A Game of Thrones.

LANDON LIBOIRON
Liboiron, of Degrassi: The Next Generation, has a starring role in Steven Spielberg's big budget sci-fi series Terra Nova.



Celebrity tweets



Carrie Fisher [@carrie ffisher]
I feel like a total gonk promoting anything, it's not my style. But it actually works so there.



Eli Roth [@eliroth]
Did Growing Pains have a character named Boner or am I imagining that again?



50 Cent [@50cent]
I had a dream last night I had two beautiful women in my bed. then woke up In bed by my self I'm going back to sleep.



Conan O'Brien [@Conan OBrien]
Just saved 12 whole cents by buying un-waxed dental floss, and waxing it myself. METRO

Talking points

Spears to adopt?

Britney Spears may be looking to expand her family through adoption, according to Australian magazine New Weekly. Spears has reportedly been advised against getting pregnant again, as she would have to stop taking antipsychotic medication, sources say. But boyfriend Jason Trawick might not be on board with the plan. "I know he likes the idea of getting married," a friend of Trawick's says. "But being dad to a house full of kids that aren't even his? I don't see it." METRO

Douglas's golden comeback

Michael Douglas's appearance at the Golden Globes over the weekend was his first since winning his battle with throat cancer, and he's understandably thrilled. "Tumour's gone, and this type of cancer doesn't usually come back," he tells E! News at the awards show. "I've got to check in every month. I'm so happy to be out. This is our first time out in months and months, and to be able to come to this thing cancer-free is pretty special." METRO



Happy to be here: Michael Douglas

O ye of little Faith

Daughter born to surrogate Couple tried to keep it quiet, but word leaked after Golden Globes, sources say

Keith Urban quietly welcomed a new baby last month, the actress announced.

"Keith Urban, Nicole Kidman and their two-year-old daughter, Sunday Rose, today announced a new addition to their family, Faith Margaret Kidman Urban," according to a statement from the family.

"Born through a gestational carrier at Nashville's Centennial Women's Hospital on Dec. 28, 2010, Faith Margaret is Urban and Kidman's biological daughter."

The statement added: "No words can adequately convey the incredible gratitude we feel for everyone who was so supportive." METRO



▶ Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban have confirmed the birth of their daughter, Faith Margaret.

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3 life

News in brief



It was the site of one of the biggest and bloodiest battles during the War of 1812.

From Jan. 18 to 23, 1813, British and U.S. forces clashed at Frenchtown, now Monroe, Mich., on the north bank of the River Raisin.

In the end the British with their Indian allies wiped out an entire American army. The bloodletting — especially the massacre of wounded American soldiers — gave rise to one of the war's American rallying cries: "Remember the Raisin!"

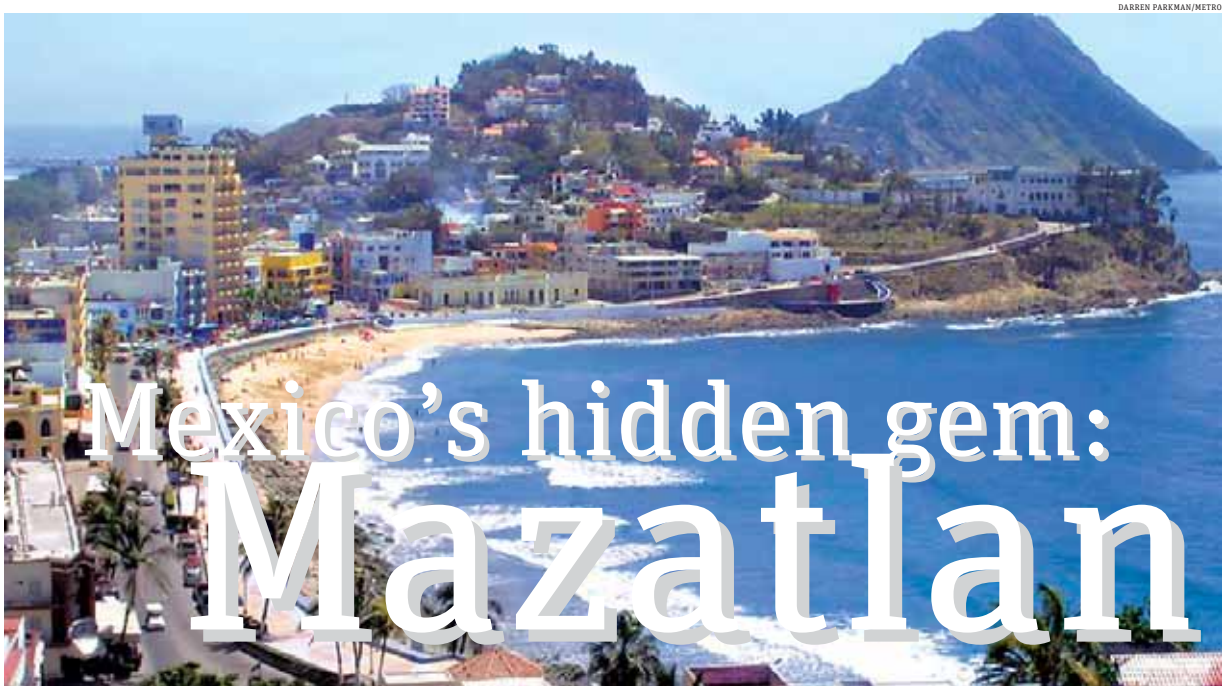
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Integrate Facebook, TripAdvisor accounts to identify friends with travel advice

With 10 miles of beaches and the Sierra Madres not too far away, Mazatlan's wonders never cease to amaze ◗ Explore the city's culture, but bull fights aren't for the faint of heart

DARREN PARKMAN/METRO



Mexico's hidden gem: Mazatlan

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



Just up the coast from all the hustle and bustle of Puerto Vallarta sits a city known as Mexico's "Pearl of the Pacific."

Little Mazatlan has everything you could ever want in a Mexican resort destination.

The city's Golden Zone features 10 miles of uninterrupted beaches, and in some areas the waves are high enough to attract local and visiting surfers.

During a day tour of the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains, I was fascinated to catch a glimpse of real Mexican culture in a remote village at the foot of the beautiful mountains.

While strolling through this town, which dates back to the 16th century, I came across a church in the middle of nowhere decorated with a beautiful baroque façade and elaborately decorated columns.

The local people couldn't have been more easy going and friendly either.

All this relaxed culture even inspired me to partake in another famous local tradition: the weekly bullfight at the Plaza De Toros Monumental.

This, I admit, was a mistake. These authentic bullfights are not for the faint-hearted. In fact, they aren't for the strong-hearted either.

FLICKR: ALASKAN DUDE



▶ The cathedral in downtown Mazatlan.

Be warned, this is a very violent, and bloody event, that never ends well for the poor bull. Surveying the audience of mostly thrilled locals, I noticed I wasn't the only shocked tourist in the crowded arena.

Still, sacrificing bulls is a longstanding tradition dating back to prehistoric times in Europe, and it's nice to know the poor bull isn't wasted.

Spectators are invited to attend a post bullfight barbecue afterwards. I confess, I couldn't quite bring myself to attend that celebration.

I was happy to retreat to an unbroken stretch of golden sand in an area famous for its perpetual summer-like weather. Who needs bullfighting?

Partying & fishing

Here are some other cool things to do in Mazatlan.

Hang Out at Joe's Oyster Bar. This is the most fun and famous bar in the city. Located right on the beach, you can gaze out on the bay of Mazatlan and party the night away.

Go fishing for giant marlin. There are no less than eight fleets of charter boats ready to take tourist out year round in search of huge sailfish, marlin, wahoo, shrimp and tuna.

DARREN PARKMAN

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Walk a mile in a royal couple's footsteps

Tour groups are cashing in on the upcoming wedding of Kate and William with a themed walk around London Everyone wants to get in on the excitement

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ People leave the Westminster Abbey in London, a destination on the Will and Kate Royal Wedding Walking Tour. Westminster Abbey is where their wedding is to take place on April 29.

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Tour guide of Will and Kate Royal Wedding Walking Tour, Hana Umezawa, centre, talks to a tour group at the Ritz hotel in London.

Not invited to Kate and William's wedding? Fear not. For a price, royalist romantics can follow in the happy couple's footsteps on a London walking tour.

Among the hundreds of British firms hoping for a boost in business because of April's royal wedding is Celebrity Planet, a London-based travel company offering a tour of sites with links to Prince William and his fiancée, Kate Middleton.

The two-hour amble through a wealthy swath of London charts the highs and lows of the royal romance as breathlessly reported in the U.K.'s tireless tabloid media. One of the first stops is a branch of Jigsaw, the clothing chain where Middleton was working as a part-time accessories buyer in 2007 when William got cold feet and broke off their relationship.

"It was while she was working here that she got the dreaded call from Prince William saying he just wasn't that interested," said tour guide Hana Umezawa, 25. "She burst into tears in front of all her colleagues."

More insights are on hand down the road outside Mahiki, a nightclub favoured by the young and wealthy, and by paparazzi hoping to see them behaving badly — and where tabloids reported Prince William racked up a bar bill of 11,000 pounds in a week after the break-up.

Fortunately for the British economy, by the end of 2007 the on-off romance that began when the couple were students at St. Andrew's University was on again.

The announcement of their engagement in November unleashed a flood of business opportunities. Mills and potteries from China to Stoke-on-Trent have produced vast volumes of plates, tea towels and other commemorative trinkets.

Tourist authority Visit Britain expects a surge in visitors this year because of the wedding, and airlines have already reported a boost in bookings out of the country for what will be a long weekend for most Britons. The government has made the day of the wedding — Friday, April 29 — a public holiday.

The royal tour is a new offering for Celebrity Planet, which runs "celebrity and pop-culture tours" in London. Its most popular London offerings include a Beatles walk and tours devoted to Harry Potter and Jack the Ripper.

The Kate and William walk stops at London landmarks like St. James's Palace — the residence of Princes William and Harry — and Westminster Abbey, where the prince and Middleton will be married by the Archbishop of Canterbury in front of more than 2,000 guests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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*No purchase necessary. Contest closes February 5, 2011, 3 p.m. Atlantic Time. For complete contest rules and regulations go to FlyHalifax.com. Some restrictions apply. *Skybox Halifax Hockey Game food & beverage package consists of pizza, chicken wings, dry snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.*

YHZ FlyHalifax.com Look before you book.

Halifax Metro Centre

Check out Seattle's slippery salmon

Pacific coast gem more than just coffee and rock 'n' roll heaven Pike Place Market has a great energy

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



After you've reached the top of Seattle's famous Space Needle and checked out the stunning waterfront, try putting a grip on a 20-pound flying, slimy salmon!

Seattle's Pike Place Market is about the only place in the world you can give it a try, and believe me, it ain't easy. It's a long standing tradition for market fishmongers to toss a customer's salmon 10 feet through the air to an area behind the counter for wrapping. This unique show attracts tons of tourists daily who gather around to behold the famous flying fish.

After observing these skilled throwers, I decided to try my luck at snatching a mid-air salmon or two. From a good 10 feet away the first one, a big wet 15 pounder, suddenly hit me square between the shoulders, almost knocking me to the ground. Not quite the result I was hoping for. The second fish-missile, which came a few seconds later, I miraculously did manage to somehow snatch out of the air, at least for a few seconds. I desperately attempted to grasp this slimy prize as it slid around before landing unceremoniously on the floor.

Oh well, it's the effort that counts. Pike Place market is a vibrant beehive of activity, with great performing street characters, fresh local produce, and even a very cool magic shop. Just a stones throw from the market is another must see — historic Pioneer Square. Rich architecture, cobblestone streets, galleries and funky bars make up this area, which is Seattle's very first neighbourhood. This is also where some of the city's coolest jazz and rock clubs are found.

Despite all these fun things to do, two of Seattle's hottest tourist attractions still remain the nearby grave sites of Jimmy Hendrix and Bruce Lee. Go figure.

Sights to see

Here are some other fun things to do in Seattle.

- **Tour the Boeing Aircraft plant:** This is place where many of the big jets are born. Check out vintage aircraft and the future of aviation. Daily tours even include a rare glimpse of the gigantic new 787.
- **Take a streetcar along the waterfront:** For an incredibly measly 1 dollar, in off-peak hours, you can ride a vintage trolley along the famous waterfront strip. Here you'll find great seafood, souvenir shops and many other attractions.

FLICKR: MAT79



▶ Seattle's Pike Place Market has a tradition of throwing salmon 10 feet through the air. Catching these slippery 20-pounders is no easy task.



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Healthy sinful foods? Yes, it's actually possible

In her new book, Dr. Joey Shulman tweaks your favourite recipes to create healthier versions Here, she shares one of her decadent creations

Nutritionist and weight-loss specialist Dr. Joey Shulman says you don't have to give up decadent foods to drop pounds.

In her book Healthy Sin Foods: 101 Delicious Recipes to Maximize Taste, Nutrition and Lose Weight, she includes tips on how to alter your favourite recipes to create healthier choices.

The entree here packs a "mega punch" with walnuts and salmon being rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Brown rice and spinach help round out the nutritional balance.

This is a "healthy sin food" that Shulman recommends serving once a week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS



Dr. Joey Shulman's book reworks recipes to make them healthier.

Health Principles

Shulman has identified seven principles of health:

- **Your body has a voice — pay attention.**
- **Your body thrives on routine.**
- **Your body responds to nutrient-dense foods quickly.**
- **One of your body's key systems is the digestive system.**
- **You must move.**
- **Eat until you are sufficiently sufficed, not stuffed.**

California Walnut-Stuffed Salmon

Preparation:

1. In a non-stick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add minced onion; cook until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in chopped spinach, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook just until spinach starts to wilt Remove from heat.
2. Add cooked rice to spinach and stir in lemon zest until well combined.
3. Spread spinach mix over salmon; sprinkle with cheese and walnuts. Roll up using toothpicks to secure. Place salmon on a parchment-lined baking sheet and bake in a 190 C (375 F) oven for 15 to 20 minutes.
4. Transfer to cutting board and let rest for 10 minutes before slicing. Serve with steamed vegetables.

Ingredients:

- 10 ml (2 tsp) olive oil
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) onion
- 1 l (4 cups) spinach
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) cooked brown rice
- 10 ml (2 tsp) lemon zest
- 500 g (1 lb) salmon fillet, skinned and pin bones removed
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped walnuts

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Bringing joy to your job

Are you surrounded by frowns at the office?
Take some initiative and solicit a few more smiles

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Misery loves company, and for some companies – where bad moods fester like a corporate curse – the feeling appears mutual.

In this, our aggravating third year in the economic doldrums, career counsellors say all too many businesses are fixating on their bottom line, while their worker morale bottoms out.

Which is ruinous, life coach Christiane Turnheim says, because companies that let their office vibe devolve into a passive aggressive crabapple brawl lose more than their sense of patience or humour. They lose clients, sales, hours everyday worth of productivity, and eventually, those employees themselves.

"The jobs people really like are the ones where they get positive feedback, either from customers, co-workers or management," the Massachusetts-based career coach and Psychology professor says. "Very often, co-workers may not work up to their potential because they feel that nobody notices, recognizes, or appreciates them."

If you find yourself, a relentless optimist, trapped in an office where the social thermostat seems snagged on 'frigid,' be realistic about how much warmth you can bring into the workplace.

"You can't change your boss, and you can't change the culture in your organization," explains Barbara Glanz, author of 180 Ways to Spread Contagious Enthusiasm. "All you can change are your interactions in your own sphere."

That said, a few mere minutes of personable chitchat between colleagues, she says, can leave a mood-boosting half-life that lasts all day.

"Create a human level connection," Glanz advises. "Look people in the eye, listen to what they say, remember their name, connect with them."

And don't be afraid to let the conversation wander off-campus.

"Talk to them about something other than business, to say 'I see you as a human being,'" Glanz adds.

If your water cooler dialogue consistently fails to escape the gravity of company gossip and dreary shop talk, institutionalize some small talk, Glanz recommends.



▶ Starting off every meeting with three minutes of good news can profoundly affect the atmosphere of your workplace.



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Should students be allowed to flunk?

Studies show that grade retention – or failing – can be highly detrimental to a student's overall success

Grade retention, also called 'failing,' means that a student is required to repeat the same grade due to lack of achievement.

Research over the past 100 years has shown that grade retention does not benefit students having academic or social adjustment difficulties compared to similar students who are not held back to repeat a grade. In fact, grade retention has consistently been associated with negative outcomes.

• Students who are required to repeat a grade are more likely to drop out of high school and less likely to attend post-secondary education. Grade retention is one of the most powerful predictors of dropping out of high school, regardless of when retention occurs.

• Grade retention is associated with increased behavioural problems.

• Grade retention can have a negative impact on achievement and social and emotional adjustment.

• Retained students are more likely to have lower educational and employment outcomes during late adolescence and early adulthood.

• Retained students experience lower self-esteem and lower rates of school attendance.

Some parents and teachers believe that grade retention may be a good practice in certain circumstances, such as if instruction has been inconsistent due to family relocation, or if a student had serious illnesses or emotional trauma. However, no studies have been able to predict accurately which students will benefit from being retained, and the overall evidence is strongly against it.

Researchers advocate alternatives to grade retention, such as early intervention when students experience difficulties; reading programs, summer school, and tutoring while working closely with parents. Grade retention is not a remedy for poor academic performance; specific remedial strategies are needed to support the individual student.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (CEA) AND THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE/UT)

ISTOCK



▶ Researchers have found that students held back due to a failing grade are more likely to face social and economic roadblocks.

More details

Retention resources

For online resources on grade retention, and for the research references that inform this issue, visit cea-ace.ca.

Of classy rooms

English educator and architect Dr. Jos Boys' latest book, Towards Creative Learning Spaces, touches on common assumptions about the physical spaces of higher education.

What are common mistakes universities make when designing buildings?

Very few educational institutions really attempt to work out what are the distinctive characteristics of this kind of learning at post-compulsory level.

Creativity, for example, needs not just concentrated thinking and doing, but also opportunities for distraction and "mindlessness" — that is where ideas develop unconsciously.

What surprised you as you worked on this book?

The ideas going around were very basic — that if an environment looked "fun," then somehow fun and learning would automatically take place in it.

One of the key arguments in the book is that learning is a complicated process, where the interaction between student, teacher, place and context cannot be separated out.

When did you first think about the physical architecture of the classroom?

I was attempting to make a tree out of plasticine in primary school. The teacher insisted that I make it out of one round blob, stuck on top of a fat cylinder shape. This, I felt sure, was not what a tree looked like.

I did not want to be a passive consumer of what teachers told me.

When I went to architectural school, we were expected to design modernist buildings with glass facades and exposed concrete; I didn't see why that was the most appropriate form for human occupation.

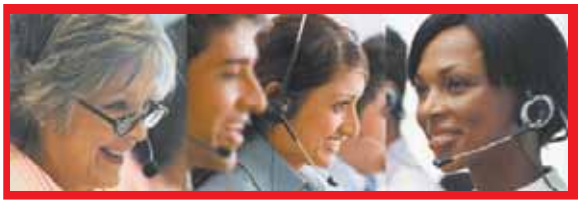
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Powered-up learning

School day camps combining physical activity with education

JANE DOUCET
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

From Feb. 11 to 27, Halifax will host the 2011 Canada Games, the largest multi-sport event in the city's history and its first Canada Games. The country's top athletes will compete in more than 20 sports, and thousands of local residents, visitors, officials and media are expected to attend the competitions.

Halifax Regional School Board schools will trade their traditional week-long March Break for a two-week holiday from Feb. 14 to 25, so families can attend as many of the events as possible. However, parents who have to work shouldn't worry; they can enrol their children in one of several day camps taking place across the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

The School Board's Excel Child Care Program will host two week-long day camps for students in Grades Primary through 6, located in 12 elementary schools across HRM. The first will run from Feb. 14 to 18 and the second from the 21 to 25; both will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"They will be long, intensive, fun-filled days for everyone involved," says Joanne Williams, the co-ordinator of the Excel Child Care Program, which oversees before- and after-school care in 57 elementary schools throughout HRM.

Important info

- **Costs** Each week-long camp costs $175 per student. There's a 10 per cent sibling discount for a second child and a 15 per cent discount for third and subsequent children.
- **Website** hrsb.ns.ca

HALIFAX 2011 CANADA GAMES



▶ Students run with the 2011 Canada Games torch during a celebration in Halifax last fall.



Each camp will have a minimum of 30 students and a maximum of 100, with a one to 10 ratio of staff to students. Healthy morning and afternoon snacks will be provided, including fresh vegetables with low-fat dip, fresh fruit, low-fat yogurt and crackers and cheese cubes. Students will be responsible for providing their own lunch.

Canada Games-themed activities during the first camp will include slalom and stick-handling relays and jump-snow hurdles. Some summer Games activities will also be introduced, including the standing long jump and dry-land canoeing. After four days of practicing, each "team" of students will compete on the final day of camp.

Discover answers to burning questions

TOM MASON
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Ever wonder what snot is made from?

During the Feb. 14 to 25 school break, kids visiting Halifax's Discovery Centre will learn the answers to lots of sticky, messy and less-gross types of questions, including, Can I make a rocket out of paper? and What lies at the deepest edges of outer space?

And yes, they'll find out what snot is made from, too.

Wide World of Science, Discovery Centre's 2011 spring break day camp, will give kids between the ages of six and 12 a chance to explore science on their own terms by asking the kind of questions they've wondered about before.

"The lesson they'll take away is that science can be a lot of fun and informative, too," says Renée Fournier, Discovery Centre's director of business development.

Along with the Wide World of Science, Discovery Centre has a new family exhibit called PLAY that promises to open minds and expand ideas.

Starting on Feb. 5 and running until May 8, visitors can enter a world previously reserved for the likes of Alice in Wonderland.

PLAY allows participants to enter giant game pieces to see things from a new perspective.

In it, five games — backgammon, dominoes, billiards, Foosball and bowling — along with standard dice are transformed into giant play pieces with which visitors can interact.

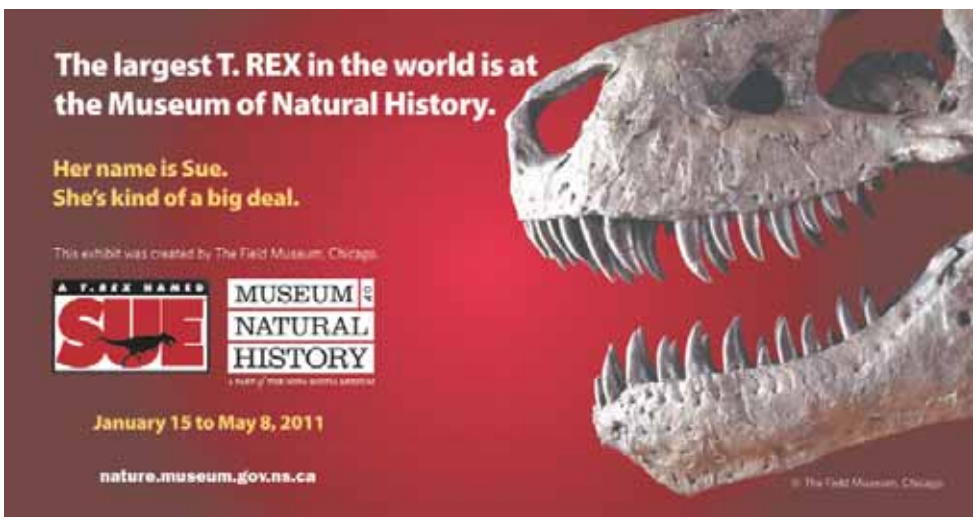
Important

Discovery Centre info you need to know

- **Date** Wide World of Science day camps run from Feb. 14 to 18.
- **Fees** Camp fees are $165 for Discovery Centre members and $175 for non-members.
- **Website** discoverycentre.ns.ca

10 other things to do in HRM

1. **Winter fun:** Toboggan down Citadel Hill, then stop for hot chocolate at the Just Us! café on Spring Garden near Robie.
2. **Back to nature:** Make snow angels in the backyard — if Mother Nature sends enough of the white stuff, that is.
3. **Hibernate:** Rent movies with snowy settings such as Happy Feet (for the kids) and Fargo (for the parents).
4. **Blades of steel:** Lace your skates and glide across any one of Halifax Regional Municipality's public outdoor rinks.
5. **Animals:** Feed the chickadees and squirrels at Point Pleasant Park or Shubie Park.
6. **Sports:** cheer for the Halifax Mooseheads and the Halifax Rainmen at the Metro Centre.
7. **Culture:** Go to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.
8. **Cosy:** Go for a sleigh ride at Hatfield Farm in Hammonds Plains.
9. **Food:** Stock up on yummy things to eat at the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market, then have brunch at The Wooden Monkey.
10. **Skill:** Learn to juggle, walk on stilts and spin plates at Atlantic Cirque in Dartmouth. JANE DOUCET





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News worth sharing.

CHARLEY YOUNG



▶ Teacher Pam Johnston, left, with her Fashion and Wearable Art students at last year's school-break camp at NSCAD.

Creative concepts

Kids learn the value of visual arts with NSCAD

JANE DOUCET
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Although the Canada Games have been front and centre in the minds of many Halifax-area residents, not everyone is interested in sports. For those with an artistic flair, NSCAD University is hosting a visual arts school-break camp from Feb. 21 to 25.

"We've been offering spring break camps for about 20 years," says Chris McFarlane, the program co-ordinator of extended studies at NSCAD. "Since there are fewer options for arts from kindergarten to Grade 12, our camps provide more opportunities to expose students to the visual arts in a fine arts institution."

The classes are ideal for young people who either have a natural aptitude for drawing, painting and graphic or fashion design, or a budding interest in them. The teachers are recent NSCAD graduates and faculty members.

"It's really exciting for kids to learn at an institution whose focus is completely on visual arts education," says McFarlane.

The following is a summary of NSCAD's school-break classes for children and youth.

Explorations in Mixed Media

Basic skills in drawing, painting, mixed media and papier-mâché. All supplies are provided. Ages: 5 to 8 and 9 to 11. Class limit: 12.

Drawing and Painting

Drawing and painting techniques, colour mixing, painting application, composition, colour values and contrasts. Ages: 12 to 14. Class limit: 15.

Digital Imaging

Adobe Photoshop and digital imaging techniques, scanning, imaging, manipulation, composition and the use of painterly and photographic effects, digital colour and printing processes. Ages: 12 to 14. Class limit: 12.

Fashion and Wearable Art

Basics of fashion alteration and redesigned use to create unique and wearable designs. Most supplies provided; students must supply a light-coloured cotton T-shirt and a garment appropriate for sewing. Ages: 15 and up. Class limit: 12.

Spring Break: Portfolio Preparation Intensive

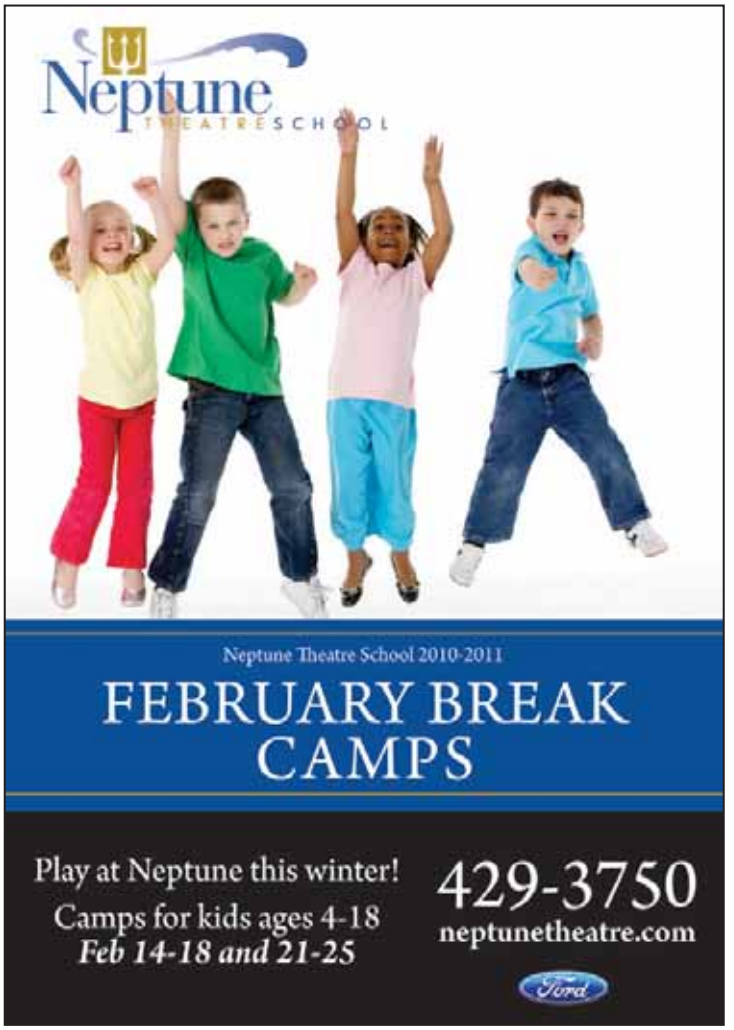
Focuses on improving the overall quality of portfolios required for the application to first-year credit visual arts study. Topics are based on NSCAD and other national art school requirements and include critiquing and selecting work, producing images of work, writing an essay, critique of work and a tour of NSCAD. Students must take a notebook and pen to the first class (additional supplies will be discussed). Class limit: 24.

All of the courses cost $295 will take place between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

They'll be held at three NSCAD locations: 1107 Marginal Rd.; 1895 Granville St.; and 5163 Duke St. The registration and withdrawal deadline is Feb. 15.

For more information, visit nscad.ca/extended-studies or call 494-8185.













Catch the spirit

YMCA camps are modelled on Canada Games theme

JANE DOUCET
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

It was 1978 when the Village People sang about how much fun it was to stay at the YMCA. More than 30 years later, adults and children are still enjoying the activities offered at the Y. During February's two-week school break, families can take advantage of The YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth's regular daily programming and services.

In addition, several Halifax-area Grade Primary to 6 students will attend week-long day camps the YMCA is holding from Feb. 14 to 18 and 21 to 25. There's room for 60 children at the camp that will be based at Halifax's Inglis Street Elementary School, 30 more at St. Philip's Anglican Church (at the corner of Bayers Road and Connaught Avenue) and another 25 spots at the Dartmouth Family YMCA.

Each camp will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and parents are responsible for providing snacks and lunches.

"There are still spots left, and we'll continue to take registration forms until Feb. 10," says Paula Latham, the manager of the YMCA's Physical Healthy Development program.

Camps at the two Halifax locations will cost $170 per week and $310 for two weeks, while the Dartmouth fees are $125 for one week and $225 for two.

YMCA



▶ Swimming is one of many fun activities offered at the YMCA.

Info

- **Fees** All camp fees must be paid in full by Feb. 1. Payment can be made by credit or debit card, cheque or cash.
- **Deposit** The $50 deposit is non-refundable.
- **Cancellations** All cancellations or withdrawals received before Feb. 1 will be refunded, minus the deposit. Cancellations or withdrawals after that date will not be refunded.

The camps' theme is "Get in the Games — Play It Fair!" The Canada Games Committee provided the YMCA with an activity tool kit geared toward elementary-school children.

"We want the kids who attend the camp to be active in mind, body and spirit," says Latham.

The children will form teams to compete in such sports as relays and obstacle courses and make flags to represent each province. YMCA staff will teach campers to "Play It Fair" by creating an environment of respect, co-operation and sharing through the Games-themed sports they'll be doing, as well as swimming, skating and bowling. With a staff-to-camper ratio of one to 10, safety is a top priority.

"It's important that the kids have a good time, but it's more important that they have a safe experience while they're at camp," says Latham.

For more information, visit ymcahrm.ns.ca.

Travel on happy trails

TOM MASON
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA



The snow wizards at two popular Nova Scotia ski hills have worked their magic once again. The trails are glistening with finely crafted powder at Ski Wentworth in the Wentworth Valley and Ski Martock in Windsor, ready for hours of fun.

This year's school-break skiing will take on an added dimension, since both ski hills are hosting the 2011 Halifax Canada Games from Feb. 11 to 27. Organizers hope the crowds will come to watch the exciting roster of alpine, Nordic, snowboarding and biathlon events — and also to try the powder themselves.

"We're fully open for public skiing during the Canada Games," says Leslie Wilson, Ski Wentworth's general manager. "We made some changes to the hill a couple of years ago so we could continue to operate as usual while the Games are on."

Ski Wentworth will host the Games' alpine and freestyle skiing events. That means the Sissy and Rosebowl hills will be off limits during races, but the other trails will be open.

All Games events are free to view, but Wilson suspects some spectators may have to trudge up the hill to get a good seat.

Conrad hopes to shake off rust

Canada has already hit the podium twice at the FIS world snowboard championships in La Molina, Spain, and Sarah Conrad hopes to build off that momentum.

The 25-year-old halfpipe rider from Dartmouth will compete in qualifying action today in an effort to make tomorrow's final, but feels a little rusty after losing several preparatory days last week in Calgary due to chilly temperatures.

"I don't feel overly prepared to compete … but I've been doing this for long enough that I should be able to pull something off," Conrad said. "Hopefully I can draw some motivation from my other teammates and turn my game around."

The two-time Winter Olympian has competed at world championships in 2009 in Gangwon, South Korea, placing 12th, and in 2007 in Arosa, Switzerland, finishing 14th.

Conrad, who placed eighth at the Nor-Am Cup in Copper, Colo., in December, hasn't set any goals as to where she wants to finish, but she does know what she wants to avoid.

"I didn't cross the Atlantic to fall," she said. "Landing a solid run in the finals will satisfy me." MATTHEW WUEST

STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Sarah Conrad is competing at her third FIS world snowboard championships this week.

Haywood catches fire against Tigers

Saint Mary's point guard continues potential record-setting pace in last night's upset of Dalhousie



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The words "Joey Haywood for threeee!" are probably still echoing through the minds of the Dalhousie Tigers today.

Much to the enjoyment of the public-address announcer at the Tower, Haywood shredded the nationally 10th-ranked Tigers for 37 second-half points as part of a 41-point night to almost singlehandedly lift the host Saint Mary's Huskies to an 84-80 win in Atlantic University Sport men's basketball play.

The six-foot point guard rebounded from a sluggish four-point first half by draining 6-of-7 from three-point range after the break, missing only five of 24 attempts either from the field or the free-throw line.

"We told him at halftime to just keep shooting the ball because eventually he would get hot, and that's what he did," said Huskies forward Tory Fassett, who chipped in with 21 points.

"He's our best player … Once he got hot, we just put the ball in his hands."

Haywood, who is in his third AUS season and fourth year of eligibility, leads the nation in scoring with 28.7 points per game. He's on pace for 575 points, which would shatter the 30-year-old single-season record of 524 held by Acadia Axemen great Ted Upshaw.

The Vancouver native was quick to credit Fassett for clutch shots and Jerome Smith for a game-changing three-pointer with 3:05 remaining that snapped a 68-68 tie.

"Not bad, not bad," Haywood said of his second-half performance, "but I can't shoot like that all the time. Tory and Jerome hit big shots and we've got to play as a team. That's how we're going to win."

The win was the Huskies' second over the Tigers (6-3) and leaves their record at 5-7.

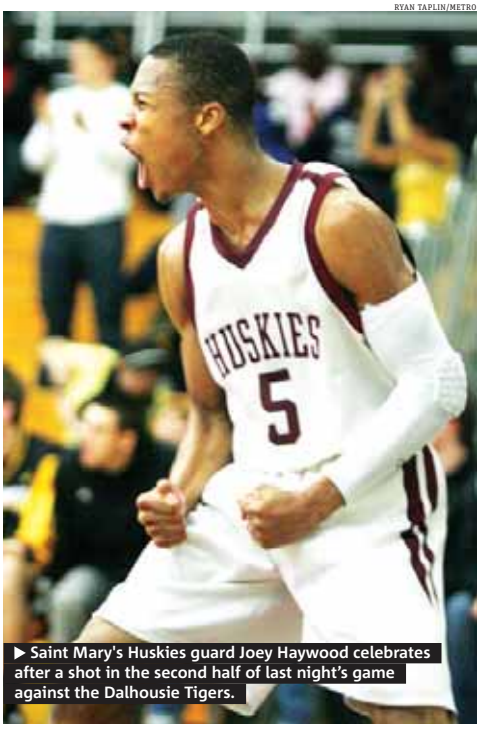
"That tells us we can play with anybody — and beat anybody," Fassett said. "We've just got to trust each other and play hard."

More Huskies

In women's play last night, the Huskies downed the Tigers 81-71 with a 32-point effort from Justine Colley.

▶ The Huskies are now 6-6, tied for third in the AUS.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Saint Mary's Huskies guard Joey Haywood celebrates after a shot in the second half of last night's game against the Dalhousie Tigers.

Smith passes on heritage game

Bobby Smith has turned down an opportunity to reunite with his former Montreal Canadiens teammates in Calgary on Feb. 19 as part of the NHL's Heritage Classic between the Habs and the Calgary Flames.

The Halifax Mooseheads owner and head coach, a top scorer with the Habs from 1983 to 1990, was invited to play in an alumni game that is expected to bring together many of the players who went head-to-head in the 1989 Stanley Cup Final.

"I had to say, 'I'm sorry, I can't make it, you guys are gonna have to pull this one off without me,'" said Smith, whose Mooseheads host the Val-d'Or Foreurs that afternoon.

Smith, who played in the Heritage Classic megastars game in 2003 in Edmonton, had a laugh at the thought of his old teammates hitting the ice again.

"I am a firm believer old-timers hockey is not a spectator sport," he said. "It works for golf, but not for hockey." MATTHEW WUEST

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Bobby Smith at the 2003 Heritage Classic.

Sports in brief

Canada in World Cup mix

SOCCER. Canada and Zimbabwe are competing to host the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup. The prospective hosts, confirmed by FIFA Monday, have to submit their bid books by Feb. 11. FIFA's executive committee will vote March 2-3. Halifax could host games, if Canada's bid is successful. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Huskies slip up

AUS HOCKEY. The Saint Mary's Huskies slipped a spot to No. 5 in Canadian Interuniversity Sport's latest men's hockey rankings, released yesterday. The defending CIS champions have a 13-5-1 record after a weekend split and are second in the Atlantic University Sport standings. METRO

4 sports

Les Berry



The Halifax Rainmen head coach is not on the road with the team as it visits the Dayton Air Strikers today at 2:30 p.m. AT. Berry, in his third season as head coach, said last night he is staying home for personal reasons. The Rainmen have a 3-1 record early in the Premier Basketball League season.

Scan code for more sports

The chosen ones

Now Lidstrom and Staal are faced with choosing star-studded teams

Not only have Eric Staal and Nicklas Lidstrom been put in charge of picking the NHL's all-star teams, they will also play a major role in determining whether the league's format change is a success.

The two soft-spoken captains will be front and centre when the teams are selected in a live television event a couple nights before the Jan. 30 game in Raleigh, N.C.

Buzz has been generated by the NHL's decision to stage a draft to divvy up the players. But the change comes with some risk since no one knows quite how it will come off.

"It's going to be on TSN live and there's going to be 18 rounds, (Staal and Lidstrom) had best be good for TV," said Glenn Healy, a former executive with the NHL Players' Association and current CBC commentator.

Lidstrom and Staal were each selected as team captains by their peers — a process that was conducted by consensus-building rather than with an actual vote.

NHLPA divisional player representative Steve Webb phoned each of the all-stars to talk about potential captains. Three names consistently came up: Lidstrom, Staal and Sidney Crosby, who remains sidelined with a concussion.

"Lidstrom was a no-brainer," said Webb. "The first couple guys I was calling right out of the gate were saying Staal. I think they recognized with Sidney — his name was always in there — but they always added Staal with Sid maybe not being able to appear."

It will certainly bring a rooting interest to a game that might not otherwise have one. Staal is a captain for the hometown Hurricanes and has hinted that he would like to use his first pick on teammate Cam Ward.

Lidstrom and Staal will have assistance in the form of two alternate captains. Those players are expected to be announced within the next week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Nicklas Lidstrom, left, and Eric Stall were named NHL all-star game captains yesterday.

Sid's all-star status in question

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is feeling better despite a concussion that has sidelined him for six games, but doesn't know when he can resume practising or playing.

Crosby's status for the NHL all-star game Jan. 30 in Raleigh, N.C., is uncertain, although he said yesterday there is a "slight chance" he could be back for it.

"It's tough to put a timetable on it," he said. "It's kind of hard to judge because it's not something I've gone through before."

Crosby, the NHL's leading scorer despite being out for nearly two weeks, is experiencing occasional headaches that are preventing him from returning. The Penguins have said Crosby will not take the ice again, even for practice, until he is symptom free.

Crosby was scheduled to sit out the Red Wings-Penguins game last night.

"I'm progressing. It's on and off ... Some days you feel good, you feel like you've made progress. Some days are a bit tougher."

Crosby was injured after taking hits to the head in successive games from the Capitals' David Steckel in the Winter Classic and the Lightning's Victor Hedman on Jan. 5. Neither player was fined, even though the NHL is taking a tougher stance on hits to the head, particularly from the blind side. Hedman received a boarding penalty.

Crosby denied a printed report he might skip the all-star game to protest the lack of punishment.

"That's not even close," Crosby said. "I'll be there if I can be there and I still haven't ruled out being there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brewers pay a Prince's ransom

Setting himself up for an even bigger payday a year from now, Prince Fielder agreed yesterday to a $15.5-million US contract with the Milwaukee Brewers in the largest one-year deal for a player not yet eligible for free agency.

On a day when 67 of the 119 players who filed for salary arbitration reached agreements, AL MVP Josh Hamilton, major league home run champion Jose Bautista and Houston pitcher Wandy Rodriguez submitted the largest proposed salaries when players and teams swapped figures.

Hamilton asked Texas for $12 million and was offered $8.7 million; Bautista asked Toronto for $10.5 million and was offered $7.6 million; Rodriguez asked for $10.25 million and was offered $8 million.

Those among the remaining 34 players who don't settle will have hearings before three-person panels in February.

Fielder's agreement topped Mark Teixeira's $12.5-million deal with Atlanta in 2008.

Fielder hit a career-low .261 with 32 homers and 83 RBIs last season, when he made $11.25 million.

"We took into consideration his previous years — the 50 homers, the 46 homers ... I expect him to bounce back," Brewers GM Doug Melvin said.

The $3.3-million gap between Texas and Hamilton was the largest, and the $2.9-million difference between Toronto and Bautista was the second biggest. Hamilton made $3,275,000 last year.

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Engine performance

The Elantra's all-new 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine is smaller than the previous 2.0-litre unit, but the 1.8 puts out 148 horsepower, a gain of 10 over the 2.0.

It's also about 34 kilograms lighter and is rated at 6.8 l/100 km in the city and a seriously impressive 4.9 l/100 km on the highway, the latter value with either the standard six-speed manual transmission, or optional six-speed automatic. That's a large improvement over the 2010 model.

Sonata-like design

Hyundai's California design studio gets the credit for creating the Elantra's silhouette.

The stylists were obviously pretty satisfied with their work on the 2011 Sonata since they clearly stuck to the same basic pattern, albeit in a somewhat smaller scale.

Mid-size status

The end result of Hyundai's artistic handiwork is an Elantra that's only a couple of centimetres longer than the outgoing model, but gains five centimetres between the front and rear wheels and is lower by nearly the same amount.

The result is greater front and rear passenger legroom, while also giving the car a more planted appearance.

From a technical standpoint, the Elantra retains its official mid-size status.



▶ "Wow" is the first word that comes to mind when looking at the new Elantra. Although it shares styling cues with the larger Sonata, the Elantra's proportions seem to work a bit better.

Love at first sight

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Hyundai has gone and done it again.

As if stunning new-car buyers with the ultra-sharp Sonata wasn't enough, the hotshot Korean automaker has just introduced its fifth-generation knock-your-socks-off Elantra sedan.

For anyone unfamiliar with the Korean automaker's model lineup, the Elantra slots between the entry-level Accent and the larger Sonata in Hyundai's pecking order.

4

For 2011 there are four Elantra trim levels, ranging in price from $17,350 to $24,200.

It was last updated for the 2007 model year and charmed buyers with a combination of generous interior space and extensive standard comfort and safety features.

Those stellar attributes led to a significant uptick in Hyundai converts, despite the fact that the car's non-descript sheetmetal and underwhelming fuel economy numbers garnered tsk-tsk finger wagging from some quarters. Whether it was stung from such admonishments, Hyundai's all-new 2011 Elantra, which should reach dealers in high volumes by early 2011, addresses both fuel economy and style while improving on several areas where it's already perceived as being dominant.

Dial in a competitive price tag and the Elantra would appear to have mass-transit appeal written all over it.

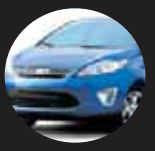


▶ The interior appears sculpted and crafted, and that's a big compliment for a car in this price range. What's missing? Air conditioning in the base model.

5 drive

By comparison

Ford Fiesta
Base price: $15,000
New sedan and hatchback models are fun to drive and thrifty to operate.



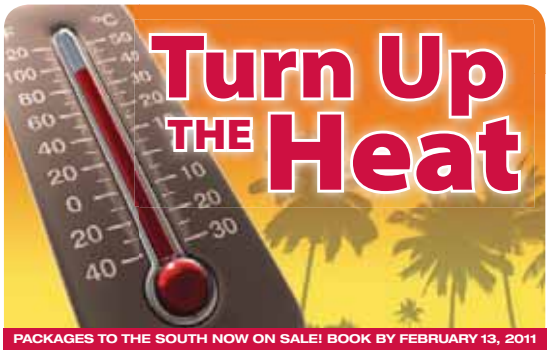
Mazda3
Base price: $16,600
Sporty sedan and wagon offer decent power and excellent road manners.



Chevrolet Cruze
Base price: $17,000
Compact sedan is a big step up in style and content, compared to Cobalt.



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THE FUTURE OF AUTO SOUND IS SPEAKER-LESS

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA



All the sexy exotics, dramatic concepts, and big introductions of the Detroit auto show can be found on the main floor of Cobo Hall.

Michigan Hall is also part of the show, but down an escalator. It's where you'll find various green-themed exhibits, and a completely normal-looking Toyota Venza.

But in fact this particular Venza is an acoustical wonder — it plays music without speakers.

This "speaker-less" car was put together by a Canadian company no less, AVG of Scarborough, Ont.

AVG has already partnered with Bongoivi Acoustics to create the world's first completely digital sound processor accessory certified for automotive use, the Bongoivi DPS (Digital Power Station) now available on all Toyota vehicles.

You audiophiles out there have probably figured out already that this Venza uses transducers.

A transducer is basically just the bottom part of a speaker — the heavier part that makes the top "paper cone" section vibrate. To make sounds, a transducer must find something else to vibrate. In the Venza they vibrate the A-pillar trim panels and the entire headliner. So, yes, it's not really a speaker-less car — because the car's interior has actually become the speaker.

And don't think this is easy.

Rob Hamelink is a chief engineer at Johnson Controls, a world-class auto supplier specializing in interior design and systems, and the third company involved in this speaker-less initiative. He told me that this is not the first attempt to get transducers into vehicles.

"In the past we spent a lot of time, energy and cost, trying to engineer the interior materials to have certain (transducer-friendly) properties."

But these efforts didn't create great sound, and the costs of such systems didn't make them "manufacture-able."

Enter music legend, Tony Bongiovi, and his digital processor technology. Bongiovi gave me this short-form version of how it works: "Basically the DPS has the capability to re-mix the music before it's played in the vehicle. We know what we have to compensate for in the vehicle, and can re-mix the material to fit that environment."

In this way, the interior materials can be regular "cost effective" types.

According to Bongiovi the sound inside the car is also improved over traditional systems, because the sound is, "higher, closer to ear level… Traditional car speakers are located lower, usually in the door panels. In this Venza the sound is coming from above and all around."



▶ Joining the speaker-less Toyota Venza at Detroit was the Johnson Controls "ie:3" — an electric car concept that showcased new battery technology, as well as a similar transducer-based sound system.



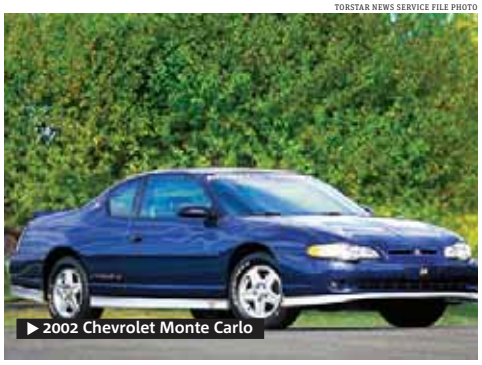
▶ Roof-mounted transducers transform a section of the headliner (shown in blue) into a "speaker."

Another benefit is weight. "A similar sounding system would weigh twice as much," notes Hamelink. He adds that the technology also enables interior engineers to do something else with the spaces that were previously occupied by large speakers.

The team feels we will see and hear "speaker-less" cars in two or three years. Any interior that will need to be designed or re-designed from this day forward will be a candidate.

[redacted]?

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO



▶ 2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

After a big, comfortable and upscale coupe? Don't want to spend an arm and a leg? Looking for sizing like a sedan but the expressive and personal appeal of a two-door?

If so, the Chevrolet Monte Carlo might be right for you.

Sure — it's no G35 or 3-Series, but the Monte Carlo's last generation was popular with shoppers after a sporty and comfortable cruiser that wouldn't break the bank. Thanks to good 'ole American car resale values, you can probably find one for a steal, too.

This front-drive coupe was available in several trim levels and with several engines, as well as a variety of commemorative and special editions. Finding a Monte Carlo that suits your fancy shouldn't pose a problem.

THE 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2000 to 2005 Chevrolet Monte Carlo
- **Vehicle Type:** 2-door coupe
- **Approximate used price range:** $1,500 to $12,000

Under the hood, look for a 3.4 litre, 180-horsepower V6. Due to well-documented problems with coolant and head-gaskets, this engine is best avoided.

The recommended engine for a used shopper is GM's staple '3800' 3.8 litre V6 with about 200 horsepower. A supercharged variant was available with 240. All models got a four-speed automatic transmission and drove the front wheels.

Look for options including side airbags, tire pressure monitoring, traction control, OnStar and satellite radio.





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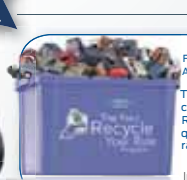
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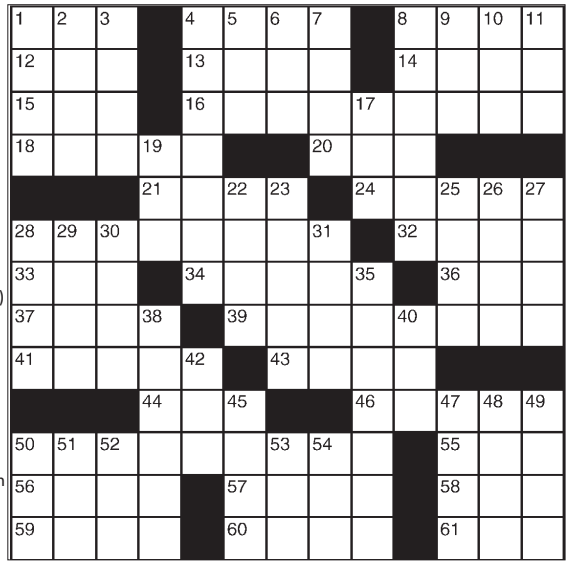


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Crossword



Across

1 Triangular sail
4 PBS science show
8 Item on stage
12 Exist
13 Newspaper page
14 Volcanic flow
15 Sheepish remark?
16 1980 Robbie Dupree hit
18 — Valley (1960 Olympics site)
20 Periodi-cal, for short
21 Part of SMU (Abbr.)
24 Former larvae
28 2000 Tom Hanks movie
32 Otherwise
33 Shade
34 Forbidden
36 Lubricate
37 List-ending abbr.
39 Formally relinquish
41 Page number
43 Even
44 Loud dance
46 Proclamation
50 To start prematurely
55 Twosome
56 PC picture
57 Portrayal
58 Work unit
59 Wild and crazy
60 Couldn't keep a secret
61 Lawyers' org.

Down

1 Pokes
2 Mideast nation
3 Suitor
4 "Piece of cake"
5 Choose
6 Churchill gesture
7 He helped raise Cain
8 Pestilence
9 Uncooked
10 Eggs
11 Salary
17 Once around the track
19 Qty.
22 "— the night before ..."
23 Custom
25 Furrow maker
26 Largest of the seven
27 Slithery
28 Kitchen bigwig
29 Car
30 Caulk
31 Boo-Boo's mentor
35 Like a Cyclops
38 Lengthy recitation
40 Toss in
42 Erstwhile acorn
45 Section
47 Concept
48 "— Your Enthusiasm"
49 Frat party outfit
50 Job, jocularly
51 HDTV brand
52 A billion years
53 Court
54 Every last bit

▶ Yesterday's answer

P	L	E	A		E	C	H	O		B	O	B	
H	E	M	S		N	O	E	L		O	D	E	
D	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D		A	I	M	
			C	A	S	T		L	O	R	N	E	
U	R	B	A	N			W	A	R	D			
S	O	O	N		H	O	E	D	O	W	N	S	
E	T	A		D	I	A	R	Y		A	A	H	
D	E	R	R	I	E	R	E		O	L	I	O	
			D	I	G	S			A	N	K	L	E
H	O	R	D	E		M	A	L	I				
A	B	O		S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	
N	E	O		T	U	N	A		N	I	C	E	
G	Y	M		S	T	A	Y		S	L	A	W	

Sudoku

5	3			1		9		4
		2						7
1					4		3	
		8	4		5			
9				8				3
			2		6	5		
	6		3					5
8						7		
7		1		2			8	6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	8	7	1	3	9	5	2	6
9	6	3	5	2	8	1	4	7
2	1	5	4	7	6	9	3	8
6	7	1	2	5	3	4	8	9
8	9	4	7	6	1	3	5	2
3	5	2	8	9	4	6	7	1
5	3	8	6	1	2	7	9	4
7	2	6	9	4	5	8	1	3
1	4	9	3	8	7	2	6	5

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Foolscap, You are the best - thank you for finding me, I am now complete with you in my life. Here's to our future together. I can't wait! **LUV U SWEETS!**

Hey Tubby, I hope you have a very happy 22nd Birthday. And thanks for not spending it with me. :) **YOURS TRULY, FLUFFY**

Happy Birthday Lissy! You're the light of my life, and more beautiful with each passing year. Let's make this your best year yet! **LOVE YOU ALWAYS, RYAN**

Darling, I can't wait till we can be together at last! Fate has brought us together. I look forward to growing old with you. Every day with you in my life is a good day. **YOUR BLONDE HUNNY XXXX**

Clarke aka Superman, You've been rockin my world lately. You da illest. Stay totes amaze. **LOIS LANE**



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Be proud of what you have achieved and don't let anyone tell you that you should have done more. Some find it easy to criticize because they aren't good at getting things done.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Accusations will fly today, but none of them will stick to you. As far as the world at large is aware, you are purer than pure. It just shows how good you are at keeping secrets!

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Because today's full moon takes place in the money area of your chart, you would be wise not to take risks with your cash. Don't let smooth talking types persuade you there is easy money to be made.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Cosmic activity in your opposite sign means you won't get far on your own, not even with the emotional energy of the full moon behind you. You need other people.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You may lack enthusiasm for the tasks and chores you are expected to do, but that's okay. There will be plenty of time to catch up. For now, spend some quiet time by yourself to think.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Anything of a creative nature will go well for you today. It will go even better if you make an effort to bring other people into your plans. Let friends and family members know you want them by your side.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Do you focus on family matters or do you focus on moving up in the world? Only you can decide. But if it gets a bit emotional on the domestic front today, maybe you should spend more time with loved ones.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Socially, the past few weeks have been fun, but there is one group of people who feel you have been neglecting them. Find ways to remind them they are always in your thoughts.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There are people out there who think they can pull the wool over your eyes. Be on your guard and watch where your money goes. Suspicion is not always bad.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Today's full moon in your opposite sign will give you the ability to persuade others to chip in and help with the little tasks that bore you. It will leave you more time to focus on your career.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You will have to get tough with someone who has let you down. If you let them get away with it this time, you can be sure there will be numerous next times.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Believe it or not, some people look up to you as a bit of a role model. Be less inclined to do something which, if it goes wrong, could damage your reputation. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL/ANDY BARRON/AP



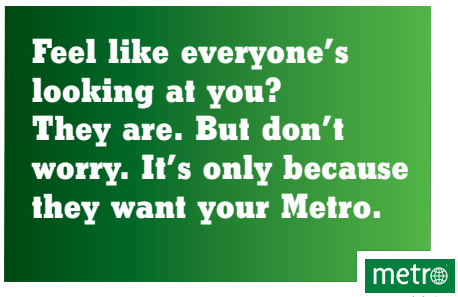
WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MANU FERNANDEZ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS









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